

**California State Department of Social Services
ICWA WORKGROUP**

**CDSS Headquarters
744 P Street, Conference Room 203
Sacramento, CA 95814**

January 10, 2012

Minutes

Welcome/Introductions. Participants were introduced and the previous meeting's minutes were reviewed. The agenda was reviewed and the tribal co-chairs requested that we move up our data discussion to an earlier time, and discussion of the CAPP Tribal Engagement Specialist position was added.

Guest Speaker: California Partnership for Permanency (CAPP). Karen Gunderson talked about the Tribal Engagement Specialist position that they recently filled. They hired Aprille Flint from the San Mateo County area. The position is half funded through CAPP and half funded through philanthropy. They will also hire another consultant. There was a concern raised by Maureen Geary about Aprille's qualifications for this position. Tom Lidot proposed that the specialist attend at least some of the workgroup meetings, since they would benefit from hearing the discussions. Alex Cleghorn suggested that the state draft a job announcement/duty statement, and let the workgroup comment.

Jeri Scardina and Vincent Feliz, from Humboldt County gave a report. Tribal relations must go on — even if CAPP went away tomorrow. Advisory meetings have brought more progress and more tribal attendees. There have been issues and tensions, but some good things for Humboldt have come out of CAPP. Humboldt County Children and Family Services has established an ICWA Unit, multidisciplinary teams, and Active Efforts is more recognized. They are collaborating, teaming, and doing joint case planning.

TCA Updates & Data Discussion. The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) has had difficulty and may not be able to get direct feedback from families affected or impacted by Tribal Customary Adoption (TCA). Special Projects Code (SPC) for TCA is not being consistently used. Paulie Boynton talked about a Smith River Tribe issue where the judge did not enforce the TCA Order and is not awarding full faith and credit.

Cheryl Treadwell offered that perhaps CDSS can issue an ACL/ACIN to specifically address the SPC for TCA and how to use it. Cheryl also mentioned that the next Data Policy Committee meeting will be January 17, 2012, 2 - 4pm at CDSS. Diana Orcino will follow up in sending the agenda to the workgroup. *[Diana sent agenda to workgroup on 1/11/12.]*

AB 12 Update. Cheryl Treadwell gave this report. There will be a list of about twelve ACLs/ACINs coming out regarding AB 12. The letter to California Tribal Leaders (dated 12/22/11) mentions five regional meetings scheduled throughout California that will be used to describe the new program and to solicit input on potential impacts on Indian youth and families. The schedule, as of this workgroup meeting, is as follows:

2/16/12 – Southern
2/23/12 – North Coast
2/29/12 – Sacramento
3/2/12 – Central (Big Sandy Rancheria) – confirmed
3/7/12 – North Central

CDSS is still waiting for confirmation from hosts for four of the five locations.

Standing Discussions.

State Budget Update/Realignment. Cheryl Treadwell provided this update. State budget impact to CDSS was minimal with the exception of reductions in CalWORKS and child care.

Legislation. Mary Enriquez reported that AB 968 on tribal consultation will be pulled by the author. Since the governor's Executive Order B-10-11 declares the state's commitment to strengthening state/tribal relations in California, and establishes the position of Governor's Tribal Advisor within the Office of the Governor, there is no longer a need for this bill.

Division 31 Regulations. Mary Enriquez provided this update; there was nothing new to report. Regulations review is still in progress.

Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) Report and Discussion. Ann Gilmour of the AOC gave this report. With regard to e-noticing, Los Angeles County has indicated that they can do it, but it will be difficult to establish statewide. Also, confidentiality must be maintained and receipt of notice ensured. Tribes need to be on board as well as counties.

ICWA Training Curriculum. Liz DeRouen mentioned the Expert Witness/Active Efforts discussion committee work that was done a couple of years ago. Question was raised as to whether or not the committee work was included in this curriculum. CDSS agreed to send the workgroup an explanation of the origin of this curriculum. *[Diana Orcino sent email to the workgroup on 1/30/12. Short answer: The draft of the curriculum was largely based on the AOC Advanced ICWA Curriculum regarding Active Efforts. However, since the current draft has 2 points of focus — Active Efforts AND Expert Witness — the Expert Witness portion is based on other material, chiefly ACLs and ACINs and excerpts from the federal ICWA.]*

Next ICWA Workgroup Meeting Discussion. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 13, 2012, and is scheduled to be hosted by a Southern California tribe. Diana Orcino will send an email to the workgroup to solicit a host for this meeting. *[Diana sent email to the workgroup on 1/11/12.]*

Closing Remarks. Diana Orcino mentioned that CDSS has been offering the video-conferencing option since September 2011. However, no workgroup members have participated via this option. Since there is only one conference room at CDSS that is set up for video-conferencing capability, Diana once again asked if there would be a future need for this room since no one has utilized this meeting format.

Diana also reminded the participants that the Annual ICWA Conference is coming up in June. However, we still do not have a tribal conference host. Diana will send an email to the workgroup to solicit a host for this year's conference. *[Diana sent an email to the workgroup on 1/12/12.]*